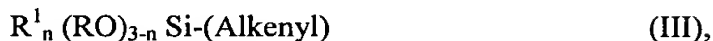


or



in which:

- B¹: represents -SCN, -SH -Cl, NH₂ (when q = 1) or -S_x- (when q = 2),
R: represents an alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbon atoms, branched or unbranched, or a phenyl group, wherein all the groups R,
R¹: represents a C₁-C₄-alkyl or C₁-C₄-alkoxy group, branched or unbranched, or a phenyl group, wherein all the groups R¹ may be identical or different,
n: is 0, 1 or 2,
Alk: represents a divalent straight or branched hydrocarbon group with 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
m: is 0 or 1,
Ar: represents an arylene group with 6 to 12 carbon atoms,
p: is 0 or 1, with the proviso that p, m and n are not simultaneously 0,
x: is a number from 2 to 8,
Alkyl: represents a monovalent straight or branched saturated hydrocarbon group with 1 to 20 carbon atoms,
Alkenyl: represents a monovalent straight or branched unsaturated hydrocarbon group with 2 to 20 carbon atoms,

wherein said rubber powder is prepared by the addition of the fillers to latex in one step.

2. (Amended) The rubber powder according to claim 1, wherein said powder is coated with a layer of polystyrene, polystyrene/butadiene copolymers, polyethylenes or polypropylenes.
3. (Amended) The rubber powder according to claim 1, further comprising one or more processing or vulcanizing aids selected from the group consisting of zinc oxide, zinc stearate, stearic acid, polyalcohols, polyamines, plasticizer, anti-aging agents, reinforcing resins, flame retardant and sulfur.
4. (Amended) The rubber powder according to claim 3, wherein the flame retardant comprises Al(OH)₃ or Mg(OH)₂.

B1
5. (Twice Amended) The rubber powder according to claim 1, wherein said powder comprises particles that range in size from 25 μm to 3000 μm .

16. (Amended) The rubber powder according to claim 1, wherein said one or more organosilicon compounds comprise a compound of formula (II), and wherein

Alkyl: represents a monovalent straight or branched saturated hydrocarbon group with 2 to 8 carbon atoms.

17. (Amended) The rubber powder according to claim 1, wherein said one or more organosilicon compounds comprise a compound of formula (III), and wherein

B2
Alkenyl: represents a monovalent straight or branched unsaturated hydrocarbon group with preferably 2 to 8 carbon atoms.

18. (Amended) A rubber powder granulate comprising the rubber powder according to claim 1, wherein said granulate comprises particles that range in size from 2 mm to 10 mm.

II. REMARKS

Preliminary Remarks

The applicants would like to thank the examiner for the interview of September 16, 2002, which was very helpful.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1 to 5 and 16 to 18 will be pending in this application, of which claim 1 is independent. This Amendment is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) along with the requisite fee.

Claims 1 to 5 and 16 to 18 were amended to a product-by-process format. Support for the claim amendments can be found in the specification as filed (see, for example, page 4, lines 20 to 27). Consequently, the applicants believe that no new matter has been introduced as a result of these amendments and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached Appendix is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".